

Home Improvement Scammers Take Money, Don't Complete Work

Use caution when hiring a home improvement contractor. Scams abound, especially following a major storm, flood, or other weather event when many homeowners are trying to repair their houses. But contractor scams can happen any time, so be wary of high-pressure sales tactics, upfront fees, and fly-by-night businesses. Con artists will take homeowners' money and deliver slipshod work... or no work at all.

How the Scam Works:

Home improvement scams can start with a knock on the door, a flyer, or an ad.

- **Watch out for "red flags."** Say no to cash-only deals, high-pressure sales tactics, high upfront payments, handshake deals without a contract, and on-site inspections. Not all "storm chasers" are con artists, but enough are that you should be cautious any time a home contractor contacts you first...especially after a natural disaster.
- **Ask for references and check them out.** Bad contractors will be reluctant to share this information and scammers won't wait for you to do your homework.



Find trusted, vetted home improvement contractors near you and read tips on hiring a home improvement contractor, BBB.org/get-a-quote

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